

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MMO-01 INR-07 PM-04 L-03 SP-02

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P 201600Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3245

SECDEF PRIORITY

INFO USINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5628

SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA (SA) FROM CHARGE

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS VE

SUBJ: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF: A STATE 119079, CARACAS 4758(NOTAL)

1. AS THE AMBASSADOR STATED IN REF B, THE SUDDEN TERMINATION OF THE MILGP IN SEPT, 1976, AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE FMS CREDIT IMPASSE AND THE FASCELL AMENDMENT, WOULD LIKELY CREATE CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA. GIVEN CONTINUING SENSITIVITIES OVER VENEZUELA'S EXCLUSION FROM THE GSP PROVISIONS OF THE US TRADE ACT, GOV LEADERS WOULD VIEW SINGLING OUT THE MILGP IN VENEZUELA FOR DISESTABLISHMENT THIS YEAR AS A PROVOCATIVE ACT OF POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION. VENEZUELAN MILITARY OFFICERS WOULD SEE THIS ACTION AS A FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR STENGTHENING THEIR PROCUREMENT, TRAINING AND ADVISORY PROGRAMS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES.

2. IF SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WOULD NECESSITATE ELIMINATION OF THE MILGP AFTER SEPT 30, 1977, THE EMBASSY WILL NEED TWO OR THREE OFFICERS TO CONTINUE FMS CASH PROGRAMS,¹³ COMPLETE FMS CREDIT CASES, AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE LIAISON FUNCTIONS. OUR CURRENT THINKING (PER REF B) IS THAT THESE OFFICERS WOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE EMBASSY STAFF, BUT SEPARATELY FROM THE DAO'S OFFICE.

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Message Attributes

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